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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 35% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 57,989 | Nifty 17,100 | Gold 58,685 | Silver 67,509 | Dollar 82.61 | Euro 87.83 | GBP 100.33

Area MLA refuses to stop sinking borewells even after groundwater level dropped drastically, citizens allege

WELLRAISER

'Borewell dug next to sanitary line may lead to aquifer contamination'

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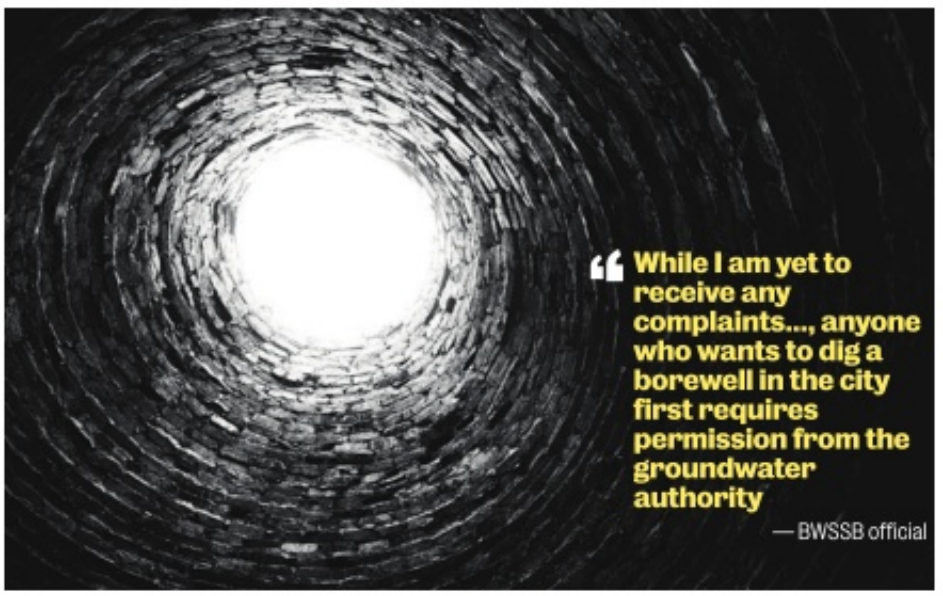
Incessant sinking of borewells in Basaveshwaranagar has a few residents of the area at their wit's end. According to them, borewells are being dug by the area MLA, who refuses to stop even after the groundwater level has receded drastically.

The latest addition in the series of borewells in the area is on the15th Main Road, in front of Lakshmi Nagar Shani Mahatma Temple. Local residents alleged that this is the third borewell on the same stretch, in close proximity to each other. Many are also worried that the borewell is next to a sanitary line, and may lead to aquifer contamination.

"A slew of civic work has been taken up in our neighborhood in recent days. The latest is a borewell being sunk in the middle of the street. There are two borewells already in the neighborhood. Moreover, it is next to a sanitary line and can be dangerous. However, the area MLA is hell-bent on sinking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »



"While I am yet to receive any complaints..., anyone who wants to dig a borewell in the city first requires permission from the groundwater authority

— BWSSB official

Fare trial

Significant rise in private bus fare makes journeys harder

PAGE 5

APELHÖSTMAL
Curtains, 1 pair, leaf patterned /multicoloured, dark, 145x150 cm
~~₹999~~
₹599

NISSAFORS
Trolley, black, 50.5x30x83 cm
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₹2,499

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NÖJSAM
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KLOCKIS
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₹249

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SOLBO
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LIATORP
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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Trouble Clef, live

Hard Rock Cafe presents an electrifying performance by Trouble Clef, paying homage to two of the biggest names in rock music: Bon Jovi & Bryan Adams. The tribute night promises to be a memorable experience for all Bon Jovi and Bryan Adams fans, as Trouble Clef will perform some of the most iconic songs from these legendary artists' discographies. **Where: Hard Rock Café, When: When: March 18, 9pm onwards**

02 VK Streets Sambhrama

This Sunday, residents can look forward to the first ever VK Streets Sambhrama being organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror. The day will begin with Zumba with Amruta Iyengar, Musical Chairs with Khushi Ravi, skipping with Actress Dhanya Ram, Yogasana by Pavana Gowda, live music by 'All okay' team, Rangoli programme with Harshika Poonacha, painting with Naveen Shankar, inauguration of traffic awareness and fire safety prog by Payal Radhakrishnan, children's painting programme curated by artist Kiran and magic show by Uday Jadugar. The programme is organised in association with BBMP, Police and Nava Bengaluru Foundation. The entry is free and programmes will be held between 7 am to 12 pm near Puneeth Rajkumar statue, Adugodi Main Road, near Corporation bank, Koramangala 8th block.

03 Retail therapy

Actress Yashaswini Ravindra will inaugurate a three-day (March 18-20) Indian lifestyle exhibition organised by Fashion Storei on Saturday at White Houzz, HSR Layout. This exhibition features over 50 leading brands making their mark in lifestyle products and jewellery across the country. The exhibition will showcase a wide range of products from ethnic wear to contemporary fashion. The jewellery section will feature a variety of exquisite pieces, from traditional to modern design.

04 Ethnic wear

Catch a special Rajasthani handloom exhibition that is displaying ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, handloom sarees, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handicraft products direct from the artisans and craft persons from across India. **Where: Soudamini Kalyana Mantapa, JP Nagar; When: Till April 2, 10 am - 8.30 pm; Phones: 89518 99961 / 94829 59786**

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LIVE MUSIC by ALL OK
MUSICAL CHAIR with Actress Khushi Ravi of fame of DIYA
RANGOLI With Actress HARSHIKA POONACHA
SKIPPING Actress DHNYA RAM
PAINTING with Actor NAVEEN SHANKAR of fame Gultu
YOGA by Actress PAVANAGOWDA
Awareness of Traffic Rules and Inauguration of Fire Safety by PAYAL RADHAKRISHNANA
Venue: Puneeth Rajkumar's Statue
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TIME:
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LET'S DO FUN ALONG WITH PLAYING & ENTERTAINMENT!

Freedom to walk on their own

More than 590 physically challenged people this Sunday are set to create a record by walking without any support. All of them are expected to gather at Maratha Hostel near Chamarajpet to avail artificial limbs and callipers free of cost, courtesy to Narayan Seva Sansthan, a charitable foundation.

The organisation has made arrangements to organise the biggest Narayan Limb Camp at Maratha Hostel on Bull Temple Road, according to Rajat Gour, the spokesperson of Narayan Seva Sansthan.

Gaur said that as many as 593 limbs and callipers will be fixed on a single day, which is a record of sorts.

He said that 4.33 lakh such people have benefited from the organisation and are leading a near comfortable life. These corrective surgeries have also been performed to build a more inclusive society that recognises abilities and caters to the needs of people with special needs.

Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot will be the chief guest. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr K. Sudhakar, MPs PC Mohan, Tejasvi Surya, and MLA Uday Garudachar are expected to attend the inaugural function of the camp.

According to BV Chandrasekharaiah, media convenor of Narayan Seva Sansthan, the beneficiaries were selected through various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and social organisations. "We selected the beneficiaries based on their needs. The limbs and callipers will be provided free of cost. The limbs and callipers were made in Udaipur. We have decided to have a camp once every three months in Karnataka," said Chandrasekharaiah.

Gangadhar L, a 58-year-old resident of Malavalli, told Bangalore Mirror over the phone that the camp organised by Narayan Seva Sansthan is a boon for him. "I am an acute diabetic. My left leg is amputated due to gangrene. I used to work as a driver for a living. I have been at home for the last four years. I have to depend on my son, who is also a handicap, to make both ends meet. He works at an automobile workshop. I want to own a small shop after availing the artificial limb," said Gangadhar. **— Y Maheswara Reddy**

Celebrating 13 years of Mantri Square

Staff members pose with the chief guests

Mantri Square recently completed 13 years and to mark the occasion, dignitaries associated with Mantri Square took part in the celebrations along with the retail staff. RJ Rapid Rashmi was also present and performed to celebrate the special occasion.

The celebrations began with introducing the dignitaries, Sushil Mantri, chairman and Managing Director, Mantri Group, Snehal Mantri, Founder, Mantri Group, Vishal Gupta, CEO, Retail and Commercial, Kamakshi Mantri, Head of Marketing and Leasing and Sabir Mohammed, Mall Head and Mantri Square. Snehal Mantri, Founder, Mantri Group presented the awards to the employees in the mall who were associated with the place for a long tenure.

The presentation of the awards was followed by a performance by the Shopper's Stop, one of the retail team.

Mr Vishal Gupta, CEO, Retail and Commercial, said, "The entire team gave a great performance. Despite being 13 years, our mall still has a young look if you look at the infrastructure, the lights, and the brands. There is good footfall and there is good demand, so I think it has been a good journey."

Kamakshi Mantri, Head of Marketing and Leasing, added that over the last 13 years, they have seen the mall evolve a lot. According to her, the brand has always been the first of its kind. They have also tied up with various NGOs and even conducted CSR events.

"I think so many firsts have come about and many more to come about," she said. **— BMB**

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'En*hittified', are we?

That the opposition MPs aren't given a fair opportunity to speak, discuss or debate in the Parliament critical issues that need consensus of unanimity and informed direction, is plain snobbery — that too by a government with absolute majority.

Demand for an apology from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on India in the United Kingdom is preposterous; that his observations failed to trigger an informed debate is unfair. The treasury benches behaving as though they are the opposition is absurd politicking.

If one were to draw a parallel with the minuscule span of big tech's evolution in India and the current dispensation's 'opposition bashing', all through, to distract the electorate, a pattern emerges.

First, the incumbent government was accused of corruption back in 2013-14. A campaign was run to gather active support of opinion leaders, civil society and the press to cement the charges — from which even a political outfit sprouted.

The Lok Sabha poll was fought on the back of the corruption charges and won in 2014 — since then, corruption has been forgotten, unless you are in the opposition, or you disagree, dissent or dare question the establishment on allegations such as the 40% commission controversy, for instance.

But yeah. These are 'grotesque' times. So it is not surprising when society is put through grotesqueries spilling over from the internet as proposed in an apt coinage: 'en*hittification'.

As John Naughton wrote in the Guardian, "…So we are left with the hope that, eventually, en*hittification might become so repulsive to users and consumers that they will rebel."

En*hittification was first used by Canadian-British tech blogger, sci-fi author and journalist Cory Efram Doctorow to explain how digital platforms are imploding.

"…first, they are good to their users; then they abuse their users to make things better for their business customers; finally, they abuse those business customers to claw back all the value for themselves. Then, they die," says Doctorow.

That explains why big tech is trying to engage new tropes (traps rather), such as the metaverse and chatbots, unwilling to let go of its grim-hold over personal data mining, even as the pull of social networks loses shine.

Global economy/humanity is stuck right now in this quagmire. While users and businesses haggle, big tech benefits and actively contributes to societal ruin — it now believes 'society is software'.

Imagine tech pretending it is absolute and supreme, and everything else is secondary — a natural folly of one overwhelmed by power of immense control and riches.

Tech wants to dictate the discourse: toe the line, download ChatGPT or risk social alienation — sooner the better if one belongs to a marginalised or vulnerable minority, at the receiving end, in an emerging economy.

This is so eerily similar to what's transpired in politics post 2014; the complementary timing of the big tech-troll coterie in spreading disinformation apart. The current dispensation has been riding social media campaigns with its troll army busy altering perceptions amongst masses to victory — the opposition is live bait. Regulation, checks and balances, law and order and all that pre-social media are a blur.

So-called 'artificial intelligence' cannot exist in the absence of the natural/organic/physical realm just as the current establishment cannot exist without the Congress party, and blaming it on social media.

This is a fallout of tech that a few sane voices now muffled by technocrats have been flagging: that tech isn't all that revolutionary, or why big corporations should not be guardians of human intelligence, or why doubters of large language model (LLM)-powered chatbots like ChatGPT, especially women employees of big tech are looked down upon at these firms for questioning the facade of 'artificial intelligence'. The charade of 'singularity', where humans and AI merge, held out to the world as the future is an overkill.

No wonder tech wants to slap so-called artificial intelligence on humanity as the going gets tough post two decades of created boom — the inherent 'stupidity of AI' as the Guardian long read put it notwithstanding. What a paradox.

Why should we embrace AI that some of the most learned linguists would not even dare call intelligence, but yet another fell spawn in a line of monstrosities that have colonised the internet.

Researchers discover new species often from the valleys of Western Ghats even as scientists scour ocean depths for oft-bizarre looking undocumented life forms, entities that are the result of millions if not billions of years of evolution. And we have ChatGPT and such, not even half a century old, with inherent biases and prejudices of creators/datasets already — racial, gendered or linguistic — ready to sneak up on smartphones/laptops and spy for big tech that have made our personal lives their business.

That said, fact is, overwhelming vices of tech are delegitimising whatever little was achieved with it in the past two decades.

Plan to meet city's meat waste goals

BBMP plans to build meat rendering facility at cost of Rs 11 crore

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To address the issue of excess meat waste generated in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to build a meat rendering facility at a cost of Rs 11 crore. This facility will make use of excess meat and animal carcasses to produce useful byproducts, which is a step towards a circular economy. Usually, meat waste from markets and animal carcasses on roads are incinerated or dumped, but with this plant, the Palike aims to make products that can be consumed by fish and animals.

The Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has floated a tender for the construction of an incineration and meat rendering plant with a capacity of 1 tonne. The bidder will be responsible for running four batches of incineration and rendering per day, with each batch of 1-tonne capacity. The tender covers the construction of civil structures, as well as the supply, installation, commissioning, and operation and maintenance for a period of 60 months, at a cost of Rs 11.70 crore. The construction of civil items of the processing plant estimated to be Rs 421.57 lakh will be covered under Shubra Bengaluru Scheme, and the supply, installation, and commissioning of electromechanical components along with operation and maintenance worth Rs 748.77 lakh will be covered under the Amruth Nagarothana Scheme.

A senior BSWML official said, "Currently, there is no proper way to deal with animal waste and animal carcass, so we want to bring a more systematic approach to deal with the problem using technology.

Proposed meat rendering plant will be of 1-tonne capacity

Animal waste and carcasses will be processed at the plants to recover byproducts. We are looking at processing the waste to produce protein-rich products that could be fed to chickens and fish. Additionally, there will be an incineration facility to produce ash for unrecoverable items. However, the project is aimed at recovering animal waste.

As part of the new tender being floated by the Palike for the collection and transport of waste, dead animals will also be collected. The bidder will be responsible for the collection, transport, and processing of animal waste. Successful bidders will be provided with an acre of land by BSWML for setting up a 1-tonne incineration and 1-tonne rendering processing plant. The burnt ash gas generated should meet the norms set by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

BBMP will provide the bidder with a list of shops approved for running animal butcher shops, along with the waste per kg collection fee to be collected from the shops for collection and transport. The bidder will also be paid a tipping fee for the collection and transport of animal carcasses. To reduce the usage of electricity, the agency might also consider the establishment of a solar power plant to meet the energy requirements. The bidder will also have to establish an Effluent Treatment Plant with zero discharge attached to the plant.

"Currently, there is no proper way to deal with animal waste so we want to bring a systematic approach

–A BSWML employee

Furore over MP's stray dog comment

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A recent statement by Karnataka MP, Pratap Sinha to stop reporting and remain silent on stray dogs after a five-year-old child was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs has been slammed by animal activists and animal lovers.

Tarun Agarwal from Animal Cruelty Cell has sent a legal notice written by advocate Abhijit Gupta asking Sinha to take back the harsh statement passed in the press conference and to apologise in the public.

The legal notice sent to Sinha reads, "My client (Tarun Agarwal) has instructed to inform you that in case your antics continue towards such acts, then legal proceedings will be initiated before the court of law for your unjust act towards animals."

Many animal lovers have sent out mails to other officials from BJP demanding action against Sinha. Even members from other political parties sent out letters to condemn the statement.

The activists pointed out that the statements made are in contempt of Supreme court order and as per The Constitution Of India.

Animal activists demand apology from MP Pratap Simha for his statement

Tarun Agarwal said, "He said in a statement that feeding a street dog is not a great selfless act. We highly condemn such a person to be representing us as a leader. We demand a public apology from him and higher officials to take action on him for violating the law."

Champa Saha, Anti-Cruelty Cell- Member , said, "Pratap Sinha has proved himself completely incapable of being a political representative of the citizens. His comments about culling street dogs is unethical, unconstitutional and goes against the rulings of the apex court of India."

Don't be easy prey for bulk SMS

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If a flurry of text messages asking you to download a link, and if you accidentally or incidentally click on it, it could wipe out your savings in seconds. Police say that the days when a scammer would trick you into divulging your bank account details over the phone are gone, as scammers are now instead sending bulk text messages to con their unsuspecting victims.

"You would get an SMS, like the ones you get from your banks. The text message would claim that some money has been debited from your account and if you don't know about the transaction then click on the link. The link is usually malware that helps the accused to wipe out money from your account," said cyber experts.

This trend is particularly challenging because people would not even get a message that their money was withdrawn or transferred without notice, they informed.

Furthermore, the cyber experts asked to be cautious and not download third-party applications which are not on Play Store like games, etc.

"Never use public Wi-Fi, especially while making online financial payments. Contact your bank to set a daily transaction limit. If you are using credit cards, switch off international usage. It is better to enable daily account updates alerts via email and SMS," they explained.

According to cops, people should also guard against clicking on suspicious links on other apps like Telegram.

"Many people download web series and movies from Telegram, but some of those links are just another way to get remote access to your phone," said a police officer.

Follow these methods of cyber hygiene

- Do not close the browser window without logging out of your account
- Never give details of PAN, aadhaar, and voter cards to known persons or organizations
- Be cautious while using identity proofs at suspicious places
- Make sure that credit and debit card swipes at fuel stations are done in your presence
- Check if the swipe machine is safe
- Scammers trick you through lottery awards, even though you may have never participated in e-contest
- Always opt for strong passwords with a variety of numbers and upper and lowercase letters

Bus fare spooks festive spirit

Significant increase in private bus fare is proving to be difficult for commuters

Transport department to control fares imposed by private operators

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With Ugadi a countdown away, private bus operators planning to hike the prices of tickets may have to face the music by the State Government. The Transport Department of Karnataka intends to control the exorbitant ticket fares imposed on the public by private bus operators and those flouting the rules may even get their licence cancelled.

For instance, on a regular day, the bus fare to Chennai from Bengaluru is around Rs 1,250 and during the festive season, the bus fare has risen to Rs 1,690. Similarly, a bus ticket to Mumbai has escalated from Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,100. Residents of Bengaluru visiting Goa can expect the prices of each ticket to be around Rs 2,500 on weekends and the festive season, while the price of a ticket on a regular day is Rs 1,299.

Soaring prices of bus fares is seen to be challenging for bus commuters. Kavya Challa, a regular traveller, expressed her disappointment and said, "I am a student and my family lives in Andhra Pradesh. The surge in the prices of tickets can be very taxing. Even though we pay more, we do not have any benefits. Usually, I pay Rs 1,700 on regular days and during the festive season, I would pay up to Rs 3,000."

Harish P, a resident of Vijaynagar said, "My family stays in my native place and during festive seasons, the hike in prices is a regular headache. The prices of tickets nearly double during festivals like Deepawali, Dasara and Ugadi. Despite the warnings issued by the government, travellers are paying a lot. On regular days a ticket to my native is within Rs 1,000 but during the festive season I pay more than usual, which is unfair."

Ananth Prabhu, who travels regularly to Udupi, stated that the bus fares during the weekends and holidays are higher than on regular days. Certain online platforms and applications are charging very high amounts especially during the holidays. He further added that the unbearable ticket price is unfair to middle-class people and urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter.

In order to curb the surge in prices of private bus tickets, the Transport Department is aiming to warn all RTOs about the increase in bus fares. A special squad shall be formed under the guidance of C Mallikarjun.

Addressing the issue, SN Siddaramappa, the Transport Commissioner said, "The Transport Department has strictly advised all RTOs to take stern actions against the price hike. We are shortly organising a meeting with private bus operators concerning this issue."

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E-bike taxis not coming soon

It is unlikely to be launched in the next one or two months

The move was made in an attempt to solve last-mile connectivity problems and keep pollution in check

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Despite the Transport Department issuing a licence to operate e-bike taxis in the city, the project has yet to take off on the ground. According to sources, the company that was granted the licence might delay the rollout for some time.

Bengaluru's plan to run e-bike taxis as an alternative to petrol-run bikes has been delayed. The licence was issued under the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021 to solve last-mile connectivity problems and make the city pollution-free. It was granted to Wicked Ride Adventures Services Pvt Ltd and another electric cab company, BluSmart, and is valid for five years.

However, according to sources, Wicked Ride Adventures Services Pvt Ltd has no immediate plans to launch the project. "We are not launching the e-bike taxi immediately. We are focusing on consolidating our OEM side of the business. For the next one or two months, we are unlikely to launch the same," said a representative from the firm.

Transport officials say that the licence was issued months ago, and now it is up to the company to launch e-bike taxis. They clarified that no approvals are pending from their end.

The transport department has allowed e-bike taxis to charge Rs 25 for 5 km and Rs 50 for 10 km. As per the restrictions mentioned in the scheme, the distance between the origin and destination should not exceed 10 km. The driver and passengers are required to wear a yellow helmet and the driver should wear a jacket with the words 'Electric Bike Taxi' on it. No person below the age of 15 should be offered services.

> **"We are not launching the e-bike taxi immediately. We are focusing on consolidating our OEM side of the business**
>
> – Wicked Ride Adventures Services

Distance travelled by the vehicle needs to be calculated based on the odometer and not on journey time.

While the city fails to launch the e-bike taxi scheme, auto drivers have been opposing the running of petrol-based bike taxis in the city. Auto driver unions have been demanding a ban on bike taxis. "We have given a letter to the Transport Commissioner and Transport Minister to ban bike taxis. We have also requested to ban these bike taxis from the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). Authorities need to regulate and ensure the safety of commuters. At Namma Yatri, we are in the process of introducing last-mile connectivity services for Metro with no cancellation feature. Commuters will have to pay Rs 10 extra for the services, and for distances within 2 km, commuters will be charged Rs 40. We have asked the officials to provide training to the bike taxi drivers," said Rudramurthy of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU).

Recently, the Delhi Transport Department banned all bike taxi services. The department had observed that two-wheelers with non-transport registration numbers were carrying passengers for hire and in violation of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988. In case the driver is found violating the ban, his driving licence will be suspended for three months.

Fans remember Appu on birth anniversary

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Hundreds of fans of Karnataka Ratna Dr Puneeth Rajkumar gathered at Sri Kanteerava Studios to celebrate their beloved star's 48th birthday. The late actor's family members, including Raghavendra Rajakumar and Mangala Raghavendra, visited his samadhi to offer prayers.

One of Puneeth's fans from Hoskote came all the way to Bengaluru on foot. He said that he began offering prayers to his favourite actor's photo from February 27 and he came to Bengaluru with the intention of praying to his samadhi.

Raghavendra became emotional while addressing the fans and well wishers who had gathered there. "We are celebrating Appu's birthday by believing that he is amidst us. We will continue to celebrate his birthday. I will be with you," he said.

It is said that Puneeth's fans arranged a huge cake as part of the birthday celebrations. They also made arrangements to present a sapling to all those visiting the samadhi. Additionally, arrangements were made to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all the people who had come to attend the emotional event.

Food being served at late actor Puneeth Rajkumar's samadhi

Meanwhile, Kabja, a film that was released across the country, paid rich tributes to Puneeth by showing rare photographs of him in the beginning of the movie.

Bharathinagar Residents' Forum organised a naming ceremony on Thursday at the Cox Town Maternity Hospital on the occasion of Puneeth's 48th birthday celebrations. "We celebrated our favourite Appu sir's 48th birthday by naming 12 new born baby boys after him and eight new born baby girls after Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar," said NS Ravi, president, Bharathinagar Residents' Forum.

The naming ceremony was attended by Poornima Ramkumar, film artists Lasya and Aruna Hariharan. Fruits, bread, milk, and clothes were given to the mothers and lunch was served to the hospital staff.

Many people, including politicians, celebrated the late actor's birthday across the city.

Mahi Shivashankar, a movie producer from Andhra Pradesh, released a song called Appu Kadhaa Gaanam. Shivashankar acted in the song that is made in Kannada and Telugu. The song was sung by Rajesh Krishnan and Jayashree while Charan Arjun scored music.

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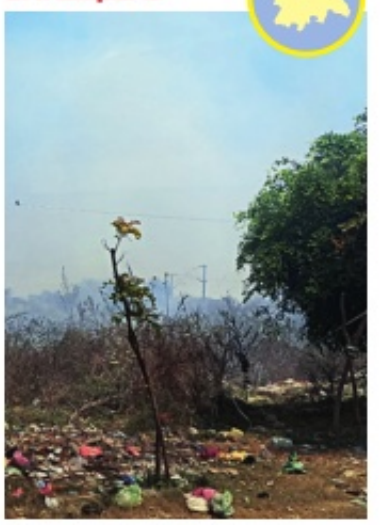
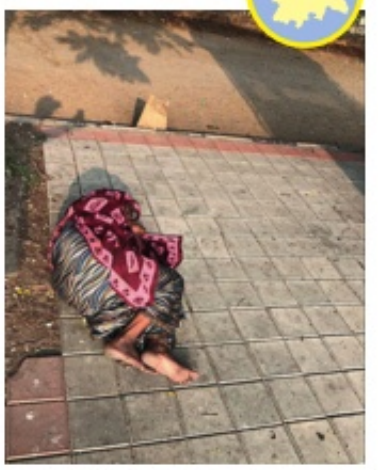
Burning trash
Srirampura



Garbage is lying uncleared at Srirampura near Thanisandra. Waste is also being burnt.

Urgent!
Race Course Road



An old lady is sleeping on the footpath opposite the Volvo car showroom on Race Course Road. She is probably homeless, unwell, and needs help.

Caved in road
Kaggadasapura

A portion of the road in 6B Cross, Kaggadasapura, CV Raman Nagar has caved in for a very long time.

What a silty story on Sarjapur flyover!

Bengalureans using the Sarjapur road flyover say that commuting has become dangerous recently with the sides of the flyover filled with silt. They say that despite complaining repeatedly, the flyover has been in this state for nearly five years.

The commuters say that the because of the silt spread all over, vehicles have greater chance of skidding and crashing. Anand Sharma, a commuter, said, "The road condition on the flyover is pathetic and it has been like this for quite a long time. The roads are filled with silt which is not at all good for the vehicles that use this flyover. The people using two-wheelers are more at risk because they have more chances of skidding and injuring themselves."

Prashant Ashok, another commuter, said the flyover has been in this terrible condition for the last five years. A lot of complaints have been made and a lot of requests have been done but still no action has been taken by the authorities. All of the requests have fallen on deaf years. There must be some action taken to ensure that the flyover is fixed and all the people commuters using this road get a smooth commute.

Looking at the condition of the flyover, some of the commuters also state that it is an accident waiting to happen.

Dhanush K, another commuter, said, "It is quite a busy road and a lot of people use it to travel. This road should not be in a condition like this. The vehicles go at quite a high speed and given the condition of the road, they can get into an accident at any point of time. The worst thing is that the condition of the road has been like this for the past five years and no effort has been made to fix its condition."

Some of the commuters also mentioned that the lights along the road usually do not work. Aditya Kaushal, another commuter, said it was not only the road that is problematic. During the evening hours, it becomes quite difficult to cross this stretch in the dark.

A BBMP official said they would look into the matter soon.

— Shreyashi Mukherjee

Drive or ride at your own risk on Sarjapur flyover

Twitter in the spotlight

The union government has informed the High Court of Karnataka that being a significant intermediary, micro blogging site Twitter has additional responsibility and it was its duty "to provide details of account holders".

Additional Solicitor General R Sankarnarayanan who appeared for the central government, gave the examples of "dangerous" tweets that "is going to affect the integrity, sovereignty of India or is going to create a public (dis) order; then naturally we will step in and either we will issue a take-down notice or we will say block the account".

Twitter approached the HC in June 2022 against the take-down orders issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Twitter claims the government is required to issue notice to the owners of the handles whose accounts are blocked. Twitter has also claimed that the government has even prevented it from informing the account holders whose accounts have been ordered to be blocked.

The ASG also submitted to the court that Twitter cannot take protection under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act which exempts social media intermediaries in certain cases. Twitter was bound to follow the directions of the authorities designated by the government, he submitted. **– PTI**

Hell-bent on borewells

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

borewells at an unprecedented rate," said a resident of Basaveshwaranagar.

While borewells, local residents claimed, are being dug constantly in the area, recharge pits are the least of anyone's concern.

"We requested the MLA that if a borewell is being dug, groundwater recharge pits should be created simultaneously to ensure that the water level in the area is maintained," said the resident.

Residents said the borewells in question are not approved by the Karnataka Groundwater Authority and BWSSB. Meanwhile, the ongoing work is impacting traffic flow as well.

"I have been a resident of this area for over 25 years. There was a lake in the surroundings up until the late 1990s. However, the water table went down and the lake dried up.

While the lake area was converted to a mini forest and groundwater was somehow maintained, in the past four to five years, there has been indiscriminate borewell sinking on private properties and streets in the area; this has led to severe depletion of groundwater. There have been instances of borewells leaking; no one fixed it due to the lack of ownership," said another resident.

When BM reached out to a senior official from Bangalore Water Supply And Sewerage Board (BWSSB), he said no complaint has reached him from the residents. However, the official told BM that as per the groundwater regulations for borewells in Bengaluru, it is mandatory to apply for a permit to dig new borewells according to Section 11 of the Karnataka Ground Water (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011 And Rules, 2012.

Moreover, it is mandatory to register existing borewells and drilling agencies with the Karnataka Groundwater Authority under Sections 12 and 13 of the Act.

Moreover, all users (domestic or commercial) who extract and use groundwater in Karnataka come under the purview of the law.

"While I am yet to receive any complaints regarding the issue, anyone who wants to dig a borewell in the city first requires permission from the groundwater authority.

After submitting a request, a spot inspection is conducted by a committee to understand if the borewell is required in the area. We look at various factors such as Cauvery water availability and groundwater level in the area before permission is granted," said the official.

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Just a number

Biological age is a more accurate measure of healthspan, or years lived in good health, than chronological age, and doesn't directly correlate with wrinkles and gray hair

Do you ever wake up some days and think, "When I was younger, I could survive on just four hours of sleep, but now it seems like I need 10"? Or have you ever walked out of the gym and "felt" your knees?

Almost everyone experiences these kinds of signs of aging. But there are some people who seem to defy their age. The late US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg stayed on the bench until her death at age 87. And actor Paul Rudd was named People magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive" in 2021 at age 52 while still looking like he's in his 30s. Is age just a number then?

Researchers have focused a lot of attention on understanding the causes and risk factors of age-related diseases like Alzheimer's, dementia, osteoporosis and cancer. But many ignore the major risk factor for all of these diseases: aging itself.

More than any individual risk factor such as smoking or lack of exercise, the number of years you've lived predicts onset of disease.

However, no two people age the same. Although age is the principal risk factor for several chronic diseases, it is an unreliable indicator of how quickly your body will decline or how susceptible you are to age-related disease.

This is because there is a difference between your chronological age, or the number of years you've been alive, and your biological age – your physical and functional ability.

I am a scientist interested in redefining "age." Instead of benchmarking chronological age, my lab is invested in measuring biological age.

Biological age is a more accurate measure of healthspan, or years lived in good health, than chronological age, and doesn't directly correlate with wrinkles and gray hairs. Rapid agers experience a faster rate of functional deterioration relative to their chronological age.

Detecting rapid agers early on presents an opportunity to delay, change or even reverse the trajectory of biological aging.

Genetics and biological age

Biological aging is multifaceted. It arises from a complex mix of genetic traits and is influenced by factors like microbiome composition, environment, lifestyle, stress, diet and exercise.

Genetics were once thought to have no influence on aging. However, in the early 1990s, researchers reported the first studies identifying genes that were able to extend the lifespan of a small roundworm. Since then, multiple observations support the influence of genetics on aging.

For example, children of long-lived parents and even those with long-lived siblings tend to live longer. Researchers have also identified multiple genes that influence longevity and play a role in resilience and protection from stress. These include genes that repair DNA, protect cells from free radicals and regulate fat levels.

However, it is clear from studies in identical twins – who share the same genes but not the same exact lifespans – that genes are not the only factor that influences aging.

In fact, genes probably account for only 20 per cent to 30 per cent of biological age. This suggests that other parameters can strongly influence biological aging.

Environmental and lifestyle effects

Researchers have found that environmental and lifestyle factors heavily influence biological age, including social connectedness, sleeping habits, water consumption, exercise and diet.

Social connectedness is essential for well-being throughout life. But social connections can be challenging to maintain over time due to loss of family and friends, depression, chronic illness or other factors.

Similarly, diet and exercise are strong influencers of biological age.

Mostly plant-based meals and spurts of activity throughout the day are well-known "secrets" of healthspan and longevity. Although newer studies on the effects of diet interventions such as intermittent fasting and time-restricted feeding on longevity have not been rigorously tested, they do show multiple health benefits, including better glucose and insulin regulation

While genetics is difficult to control, diet and exercise can be modified to delay biological aging.

How to measure biological age

Currently, there is no effective test to predict an individual's health trajectory early enough in life in order to intervene and improve quality of life with age.

Scientists are interested in identifying a molecule that is sensitive and specific enough to serve as a unique fingerprint for biological age.

Considering the health and resilience of the individual instead of focusing solely on disease state is important in discussions on biological age. Resilience is the state of adapting and bouncing back from a health challenge and is often more predictive of functional health.

A molecular aging fingerprint may provide a tool to help identify people who are less resilient and require more aggressive monitoring and early intervention to preserve their health and help reduce gender, racial and ethnic health disparities.

There are several promising molecular markers that may serve as biological age fingerprints.

One of these markers are epigenetic clocks. Epigenetics are chemical modifications of DNA that control gene function. Several scientists have found that DNA can get "marked" by methyl groups in a pattern that changes with age and could potentially act as a readout for aging.

It is important to note, however, that while epigenetic clocks have been valuable in predicting chronological age, they do not equate to biological age.

Another well-regarded marker of biological age is the build-up of dysfunctional cells called senescent or zombie cells.

Cells become senescent when they experience multiple types of stress and become so damaged that they cannot divide anymore, releasing molecules that cause chronic low-grade inflammation and disease.

Animal studies have shown that getting rid of these cells can improve healthspan.

Lastly, the body releases unique metabolites, or chemical fingerprints, as byproducts of normal metabolism. These metabolites play a dynamic and direct role in physiological regulation and can inform functional health.

My lab and others are figuring out the exact makeup of these chemicals in order to figure out which can best measure biological age.

People have long sought a fountain of youth. Whether such an elixir exists is still unknown. But research is starting to show that delaying biological age may be one way to live healthier, fuller lives.

(By Aditi Gurkar, University of Pittsburgh for The Conversation)

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I got married six months ago and I bitterly regret it and want out. We'd been dating for a few years, but we'd never lived together previously.
I'm starting to feel trapped and unhappy because, while he's a charming guy, and is always taking me out and buying me things, I feel more of a possession than his wife. I've realised he's very controlling - about the house, about what we do, even down to what I wear and who I socialise with.
He's not keen on most of my friends and even though he doesn't say this directly, he's always making digs about them. It's got to a point where I lie to him about where I'm going.
He's also obsessed by my social media accounts, so I'm careful never to post anything on there that might make him annoyed.
My family adores him and would be devastated if we split up, as we've only been married such a short time. Please help.

COLEEN SAYS

I think you have to trust your instincts here. If he's showing these signs within the first six months of marriage, then the chances are it'll only get worse.
He's charmed your family and he buys you things and takes you out, but so what? He's also controlling and that has nothing to do with love – it's about possession and insecurity.
If you are worried about how he'd react, then that tells you everything you need to know. You should be able to tell your partner anything without fear.
We all make certain compromises in a relationship, but not to the point of being afraid to see our friends or to live our lives the way we want to.
I guarantee that if you told your parents how unhappy you are, and why, they'd be the first in line to support you. It sounds like you've made the decision to leave, so let your friends and family help you through it.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

The toll we pay for broken roads

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

A record Rs 2,351.26 crore has been collected as toll in Karnataka in the financial year 2021-22. Bengalureans however, say that the number is incongruent with the state of the city's roads and crumbling civic facilities.

A businessman, Kishore R, said that despite toll collection, the roads are not properly maintained.

The Nelamangala expressway, he said, has so many bad stretches with potholes. The Hoskote toll road is another classic case of badly maintained roads. Until recently, one could see huge potholes on the roads.

"As we pay the toll, it looks like we were paying to travel for a bumpy ride instead of the promised smooth drive," he said.

Citizens may have more reason to be disgruntled as the fee is set to go up as toll fees are revised annually.

Roads filled with potholes and craters are every Bengalurean's peeve

During a recent reply in Lok Sabha, Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that the user fee collection across tolled roads is expected to increase by 5 per cent due to annual traffic growth and by 3 per cent due to change in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) every year. Further, new fee plazas are put for commercial operation upon completion of National Highways Stretch adding additional revenue every year.

He said that the toll collection has improved drastically after the FASTag was made mandatory.

"With the declaration of all lanes of fee plazas on National Highways as FASTag Lane of the fee plaza with effect from midnight of 15th/16th February 2021, transparency in toll collection has improved and opportunity for pilferage, cash handling and associated issues has reduced. It has also resulted in seamless movement at fee plaza resulting in less waiting time and congestion."

7th highest toll in India

As per the latest data, Karnataka has the seventh highest toll collection in the country. The chart is led by Uttar Pradesh (Rs 4,183.74 crore), Gujarat (Rs 3,642.40 crore), Maharashtra (Rs 3,386.21 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 2,695.78 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 2,472.88 crore) and Andhra Pradesh (Rs 2,434.42 crore).

Road work slow

Many expressways under construction are getting delayed. For example, the Bengaluru Chennai expressway is 262 km in length. Of this, 31 km length of highway has not been awarded. The Bengaluru ring road project is of 280 km in length with 35 km of road length yet to be awarded, 136 km under bidding and bids are yet to be awarded for eight kms. For Bengaluru-Vijayawada expressway, 274 km of road length is yet to get a concessionaire and 68 km is under bidding.

Gadkari said, "The projects are delayed due to various reasons like delay in land acquisition, delay in forest clearance, delay in Road over Bridges (ROB) clearance, delay in handing over of irrigation land, delay in shifting of utilities, addition/ deletion/ relocation of various structures and financial crunch of the concessionaire etc. To expedite completion of national highway projects, various steps have been taken which include streamlining of land acquisition and environment clearances, premium rescheduling, close coordination with other ministries, revamping of dispute resolution mechanism, frequent reviews at various levels etc. In order to ensure timely completion of these projects, regular meetings are held with project developers, State Governments and contractors at all levels."

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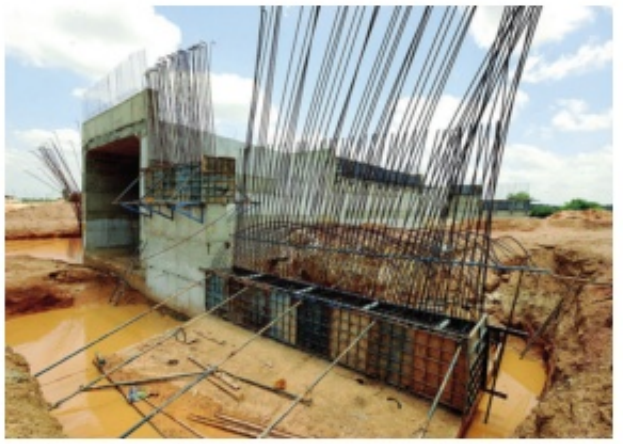
Satellite Ring Road eyes March 2024 launch

The completion of the Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road project is anticipated to take place by March of next year, according to Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari. He revealed that the project, which has been subject to significant delays, is advancing rapidly.

He expects it to be completed well ahead of schedule. The project is intended to alleviate traffic within Bengaluru City as most trucks and vehicles will be able to utilise this route to bypass the city's congested areas.



"Like the suburban railway, the Bengaluru Ring Road will also reduce congestion in the city. It will connect six National Highways and eight State Highways. A large number of vehicles going to other parts of Karnataka will not need to enter Bengaluru city. As you are aware, most of the industries are around this National Highway between Nelamangala to Tumakuru. There is a huge flow of traffic on this route. The proposed six-laning of this highway and the Tumakuru Bypass will make travel and transport easier in the entire region, boosting economic activity," Gadkari said.

Notably, the Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road project will stimulate real estate development in and around the region. On the northwestern front, the Ring Road will link Dobbspet to Doddaballapur. The construction of a four-lane road from Nelamangala to Rajanakunte is another significant infrastructure project. This road passes through Chikka Madhure, which is also linked to the Bengaluru Satellite Ring Road project via Doddabelavangala.

The project, subject to many delays, is 'advancing rapidly'

Numerous residential layouts are being established near Chikka Madhure and Railway Gollahalli as a result of the major infrastructure projects. Buying a plot in the city centre is prohibitively expensive, so many potential buyers are opting to purchase plots on the city's outskirts. Railway Gollahalli road is becoming a popular destination because it is connected by road to Hesaraghatta, Nelamangala, and Doddaballapur. It is also near a railway station on the Yeshwanthpur-Tumkur line. Railway Gollahalli has a train that connects to Chikkabanavara, which will serve as a terminal station for suburban trains. The suburban train corridors are spread from Kengeri to Whitefield, KSR Bengaluru railway station to Devanahalli (via Yeshwanthpur), Chikkabanavara to Baiyyappanahalli, and Heelalige to Rajanukunte.

Railway Gollahalli is also close to Nelamangala, which has many educational institutions. According to a real estate developer, "Railway Gollahalli and Chikka Madhure are the best bets for those who want to invest in real estate. There are more opportunities to buy sites and buildings, which will yield profits for investors."

-Prakash VL

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Ugadi home decor tip

With rangoli outside a house, festivity and happiness are all around, therefore it's no surprise that they're employed for Ugadi décor at home. You might opt to adorn your home with Ugadi-inspired rangoli patterns in brilliant colours to match the celebration's colours. You may experiment with classical patterns or unique ones. Be creative and combine some additional items such as tea lights, candles, diyas, or even flowers.

- Times Property

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Anand Sathyanarayana Murthy S/o Sathyanarayana Murthy Ramaiah Sathnur R/at No. E-402 Sterling Terraces, Ring Road, BSK 3 Stage, B'lore-560085.I have changed my name to Anand Sathyanarayana vide affidavit dated 14.3.2023 sworn before Notary V Rangaramu Bangalore

I, Sugesh Babu R/o Eenam, No 350, 22nd Cross, 9th Main,7th Sector, Hsr Layout, Bangalore-560102 have changed my minor son's name from Akshay Pournami to Akshay Babu for all purposes.

I, Diana Jude A W/O, Fayaz M M R/o Kuttigeri Paisari, Mathikad Post, Attur Nallur, Kodagu - 571237, Karnataka. have changed my name to Nazriya F for all purposes.

I, TABASSUM ARA W/o C M Rafeeq Ahmed R/a #108/C, 1st floor, 3rd main road, Kushal Nagar, opp KG Halli police station, Bengaluru-560045 Have Changed My Name to M A TABASSUM ARA vide affidavit dated 17.03.2023 before notary K.Venkateshan, Bangalore

I, Kaushik Tokarkar R/o D 1807, Alembic Urban Forest, Ab Vajpayee Road, Kadugodi B'lore-560067 have changed my minor son's name from Tasmay to Tasmay Kaushik Tokarkar for all purposes.

I, JAGATHDEEP S/o. H.D. Nagesh Gowda residing at No.104, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, KEB Road, Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to JAGATHDEEP GOWDA vide affidavit dated 16/03/2023 sworn before notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore

I, Srujana D/O, Vishwanath P H R/o #1678, Kommaghatta Road Kengeri Satellite Town. Bangalore-605600 have changed my name to Srujana V H(srujana Vishwanath Hiremath) for all purposes.

I, Sujata W/o Amarnath Yeshwanth, H No 164/4, Chalkapur Tq Bhalki, Bidar-585414 have changed my name to Sujata Yeshwanth for all purposes.

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(Art, Craft, Handloom & Lifestyle Exhibition)
LAST 2 DAYS
Date:
10th March 2023 to 19th March 2023
Timings: 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
(10 Days Exhibition)
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Star calling star— Hollywood star Tom Hiddleston rang up Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur after watching his performance in the Hindi adaptation of the series 'The Night Manager'. Aditya took to Instagram to share his excitement on receiving a video call from Tom

Mother knows best

Kareena on toddler care, what she wants for her kids and more...

Kareena has said in many interviews that she did try to become a lawyer but just went to law college for 5 days. She further added in an interview with Film Companion that she can't imagine herself not being in front of the camera. The actress also spoke about the pressure of raising two toddlers in the same interview. It's difficult for Kareena to deal with her son Jeh's 'terrible twos'. Jeh is screaming all the time, every morning and evening and the actress has to do walking yoga around the house. The actress said that Jeh is randomly screaming and added 'we know what women want, but we don't know what toddlers want.

The mother that she is, Kareena doesn't like to follow any blueprint plan because there's so much pressure. So, the only thing she tells Saif is that she wants her boys to be kind because in today's world kindness is forgotten. She prays that they turn out to being kind and good people. While Kareena loves being an actress and can't imagine herself doing anything else, she's also a hands-on home-maker. Bebo confessed in the same interview that everything is her department at home - right from the playdates of her kids to what will be cooked at home. As much as she loves being a star, she loves handling the home and all that is a part of her. She loves to clean the table or lay out things on the table when there are guests at home.

As a family, the Pataudis enjoy togetherness and that's precious. Kareena added that when Saif is cooking, the kids have to come into the kitchen to see him. Just the idea of watching and being together is precious for the family rather than even going to Disneyland.

At the moment, Saif and Kareena are on a vacation to Africa with their kids..

— ETimes

Visual bonanza with a thrilling touch

KABZAA

3.5 RATING ★★★½☆

- **DIRECTOR** R Chandru
- **ACTORS** Upendra, Sudeep, Dr Shivarajkumar, Shriya Saran, Anoop Revanna, Pramod Shetty.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 136 minutes

The movie begins with Bhargav Bhakshi (Sudeep), a top cop, conducting a rowdy parade in Bengaluru. While issuing a stern warning to the goons, Bhakshi narrates the story of Arakeshwara (Upendra). He explains to the rowdy-sheeters how Arakeshwara, the son of a freedom fighter wanted to become an Indian Air Force pilot and how he fell in love with Madhumathi (Shriya Saran), the daughter of Bhoopathy (Murali Sharma). He also narrates how Arakeshwara's brother Sankeshwara (Sunil Puranik) was killed by mafia leaders and under what circumstances Arakeshwara becomes a rowdy and later graduates as a don. What happens to Arakeshwara is what Kabzaa is all about.

Director R Chandru deserves appreciation for handling the megaphone for this movie which deserves to be classified as a technically brilliant movie. The director's hard work is evident in each and every frame of the movie. Had the director focused on the screenplay, especially in the post-intermission session, Kabzaa would have been the best entertainer. However, the climax is super. It indicates a sequel of this movie in the offing.

Upendra, as an obedient son, ambitious student, affectionate lover and a don, has acted well. His dialogue delivery and body language are good. Sudeep makes, in the beginning and in the climax, a brief appearance but it creates an impact. Dr Shivarajkumar's appearance, in the climax, is also brief. He may have a larger role in the sequel of Kabzaa.

Shriya Saran looks beautiful. Her dancing skills in the song – Namaami – deserve appreciation. Upendra and Tanya Hope vie with each other in an item song – Chum Chum Chali Chali. Among the actors, Murali Sharma, Anoop Revanna, and Sunil Puranik, have acted well.

Music director Ravi Basrur has once again proved his mettle in ensuring melodious music. Cinematographer AJ Shetty has done a good job behind the camera.

All in all, Kabzaa is worth a watch for those who get an adrenaline rush through action-oriented moviesw.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

GALLERIA

Step up

Ananya Panday's cousin Alanna Panday got married to the love of her life Ivor McCray in Mumbai on Thursday.

At their wedding, the groom, Ivor delivered a special dance performance on the Hindi version of the Oscar-winning song 'Naacho Naacho' from the film 'RRR'.

Taking to Instagram, singer Kanika Kapoor shared a video on her stories, in which Ivor could be seen performing the famed hook step of the song.

For his performance, the American film director and photographer opted for a white shirt paired with black pants and black shoes. He completed his look with a black bow tie.

At the wedding, Ivor made a dashing entry on a 'ghodi' and his friends danced as a part of the 'Baraat'.

On her part, Alanna dressed in a beautiful ivory lehenga, looked like the happiest bride there is! Ivor also looked exquisitely handsome in a 'sherwani' that matched Alanna's lehenga.

Alanna, the daughter of Chunky's brother Chikki Panday and his wife Deanne Pandayis a model and social media influencer.

Alanna and Ivor had got in 2021.

They have a YouTube channel together and live in Los Angeles, USA. They also have a great number of followers on Instagram and keep making videos to keep their fans in the loop and entertained.

—ANI

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

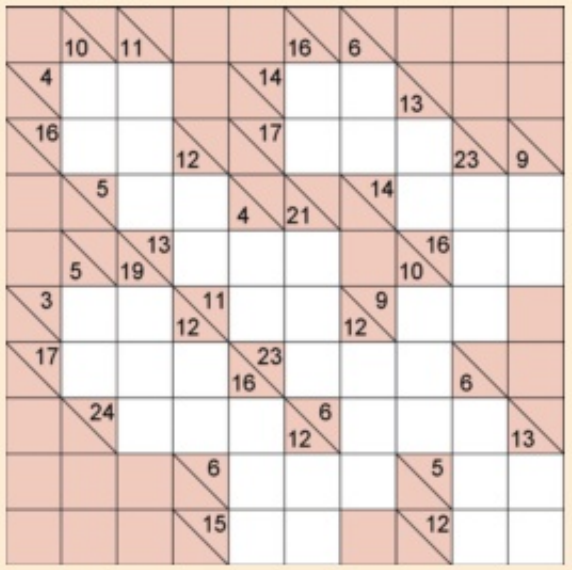
Think of a number add 3 double of the sum. if the answer is 40 find the number originally thought by you.

Kakuro

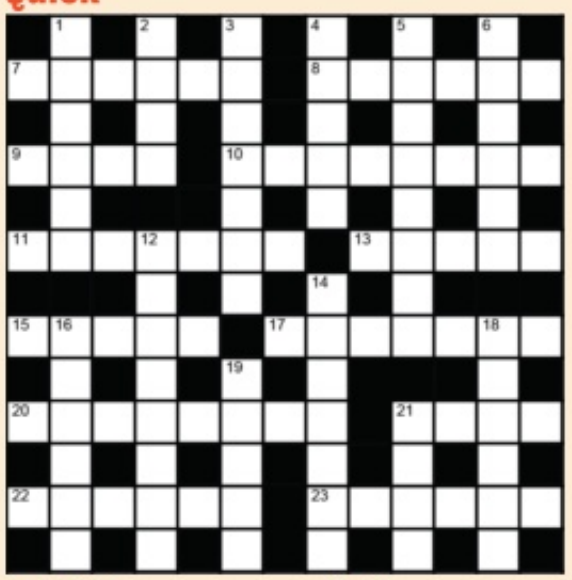
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 A light boat (6)
8 Kampala is its capital (6)
9 F1 team ___Romeo (4)
10 New York City (3,5)
11 Allots; attributes (7)
13 Put on clothes (5)
15 Sales pitch (5)
17 Vary cue anagram for a South Indian river (7)
20 Hollywood actress Jennifer ____ (8)
21 Metropolis (4)
22 Inequitable (6)
23 French lovers (6)

DOWN

1 Desks (6)
2 Dilip Kumar and Nergis hit of 1948 (4)
3 ___ for : acting a substitute for? (7)
4 Hindu goddess of war (5)
5 Chess champion Garry ___ (8)
6 Grown-ups (6)
12 Frozen dessert (3-5)
14 Indonesian orchestra (7)
16 Flatlands (6)
18 Give back (6)
19 Knot in wood (5)
21 Cut with an axe (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS D

IRSH KDXPSAHRX UKC'P PSNR LKM YC AYIAHRX. PZRL ASC DR KFRIAKQR. YCFRCPRU KCRX SIR HYNR S QSBR.

Linemaro

You look brighter than the full moon

Mindchow

Pay less attention to what men say; just watch what they do

Joke of the day

Ever since my wife left me for being an alcoholic, I can't help drinking about her

Loop

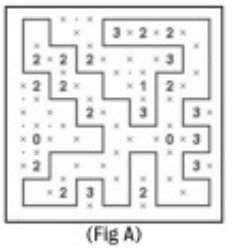
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

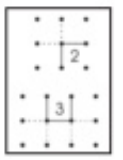
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

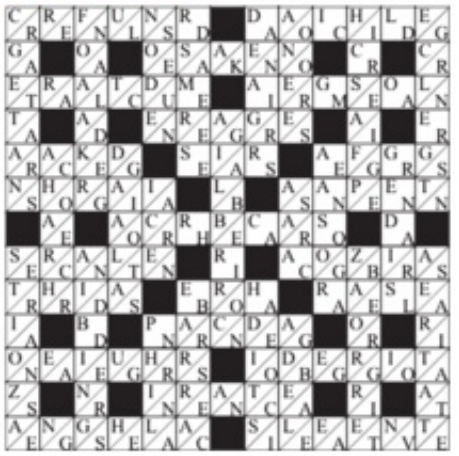


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

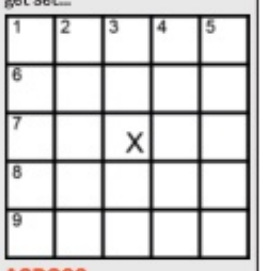
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Brace; 6 A be us; 7 TT sex; 8 Col to; 9 EMS HP

DOWN

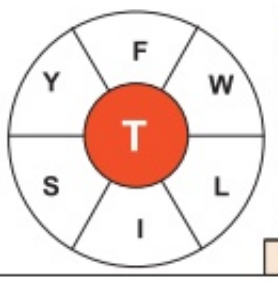
1 Ch Cat; 2 Ale be; 3 Ox Bum; 4 Poets; 5 Tress

Mensapuzzle

Which four numbers should complete the grid?

2	4	8	3	9	2	4
9	8	3	9	2	4	8
3	4			9	8	3
8	2			2	3	9
4	9	3	8	4	9	2
2	9	3	8	4	2	4
3	8	4	2	9	3	8

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

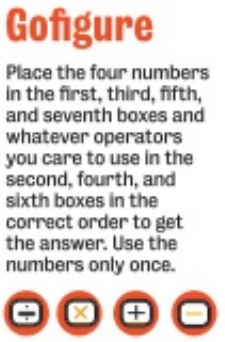
SudokuChallenge

6			2		1			7
		9	8		7	3		
	2			6			5	
8	9						3	4
		5				8		
1	4						6	9
	7			9			8	
		1	4		2	6		
9			1		6			3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Garage door handle is moved. 3. Tail light is different. 4. Doorknob is moved. 5. Rear window shape is different. 6. Scarf is longer.

Riddler

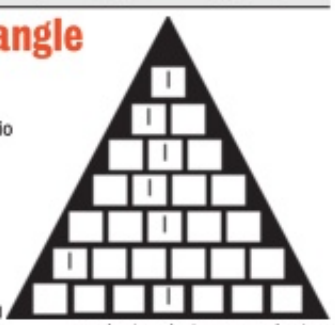
Some people's names (such as "Will Power") suggest a certain personality or career choice. Given below are some last names and professions (in no particular order). For each last name, your task is to think of a common first name, such that it suggests one of the given professions. Each last name and profession must be used just once. Example: Sonny Day would suggest a meteorologist.

Last Names: Burr, Lee, Oakey, Poole, Schauer, Shaw

Professions: Biologist, Cabdriver, Farmer, Lumberjack, Meteorologist, Singer

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 Not out
3 Do wrong
4 Trigonometric ratio
5 Blood vessels
6 Put money (in)
7 Indigenes



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

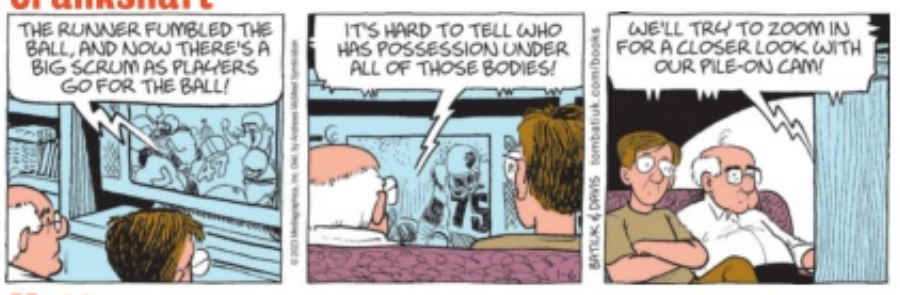
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


THE RUNNER FUMBLED THE BALL, AND NOW THERE'S A BIG SCRUM AS PLAYERS GO FOR THE BALL!
IT'S HARD TO TELL WHO HAS POSSESSION UNDER ALL OF THOSE BODIES!
WE'LL TRY TO ZOOM IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK WITH OUR PILE-ON CAM!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today your children's health may be better, and you may plan to make some investments for their future. You are likely to be more loyal towards your job. Job seekers may find a good job with the help of a reference. You may be able to identify your hidden enemies and counter them with the help of blessings.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work and receive rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may increase now. Overworking your mind may make you tired, and due to work overload, you may not be able to attend a family event.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be satisfied with work and plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual place to maintain inner peace. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull and it is advised to keep your mind cool. It's a golden rule for you to think twice before any act. You may travel to recover your money; otherwise, you may lose it. It is also advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to achieve success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, domestic harmony may make you happy, and you may meet an influential person to get some benefits in the work front. You may perform well in your job, and you may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes in inherited property may settle down.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be busy with kids and plan to invest in their future. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase it in the near future. You may also plan for higher studies to groom your career path.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may find yourself in a self-analysis state, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear, and you may achieve success. Your creativity might improve, and you will take interest in artifacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life, and your opponents may be under control now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may help needy people around you, which will increase your reputation among your surroundings. New ideas may come into your mind, and you are likely to help other people around you. You might implement innovation into work, which may increase your business. Lovebirds may plan for an outing or some adventure tour.

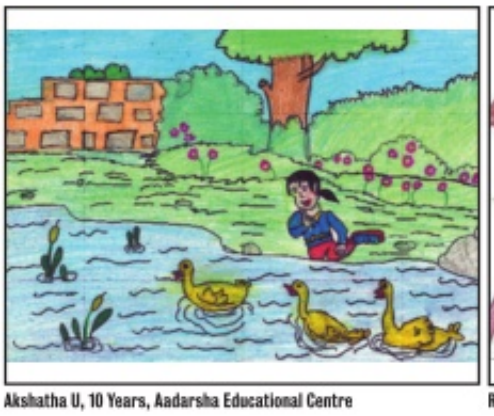
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues and spend money on buying artifacts or household stuff. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff; otherwise, it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your harsh speaking with people around you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your spiritual power may make you happy, and your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined towards spiritualism today and may plan to visit some spiritual place. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views to yourself and discuss them with those who may understand your frequency.

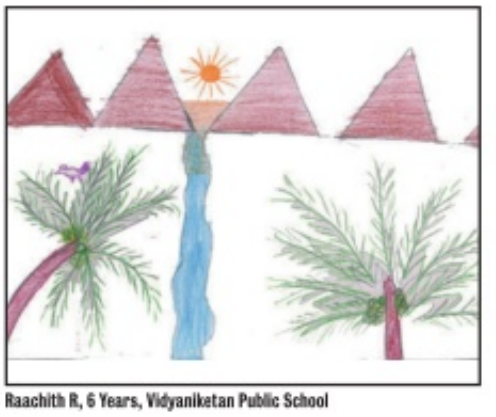
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel nervous and have a lack of patience. For seeking peace, you may be attracted to the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also gain in-depth knowledge of a subject or have a good focus towards your research.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your moon is in a favourable position, so you can expect positive developments in both your professional and domestic life. There's a good chance of gains in your investments. You may also receive help from your friends and relatives in return for the help you have given them. Your hard work is likely to pay off in terms of success.

KIDZONE



Akshatha U, 10 Years, Aadarsha Educational Centre



Raachith R, 6 Years, Vidyaniketan Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2x+6=40
x=40-6/2 =
34/2 = 17

RIDDLER
Brock Lee - Farmer (broccoli), Gene Poole - Biologist (gene pool), April Schauer - Meteorologist (April showers), Rick Shaw - Cabdriver (rickshaw), Tim Burr - Lumberjack (timber), Carrie Oakey - Singer (karaoke)

BULL'S EYE
flat, flit, flit, list, silt, slit, slit, swift, SWIFTLY, wilt

FAST FIVE

C	A	B	E	R
A	B	U	S	E
T	E	X	T	S
C	L	O	O	T
H	E	M	P	S

STRIKE OUT

R	E	F	U	N	D	D	O	C	I	L	E			
A	T	A	L	C	U	M		A	E	G	E	A	N	
T	A	L	C	U	M		A	E	G	E	A	N		
A	C	E	D		S	I	S		E	G	G	S		
N	O	R	I	A		L		A	N	E	N	T		
A	N	G	E	L	A		S	L	E	E	V	E		

QUICK

		T	M	S		D		M	K	A				
		B	A	T	E	A	U		U	G	A	N	D	A
			B		L		B		R		S		U	
		A	L	F	A		B	I	G	A	P	P	L	E
			E		I				A		A		T	
		A	S	S	I	G	N	S		D	R	E	S	S
			C		G				O					
		S	P	I	E	L		C	A	U	V	E	R	Y
			L		G		M				E			
L	A	M	R	E	N	C	E		C	I	T	Y		
	I		E		A		L			H		U		
U	N	F	A	I	R		A	M	O	U	R	S		
	T		I		R	A	T	E		I		T		
	S		E											

MENSA PUZZLE
8 3; 4 2; Start at the bottom left-hand square and work round the perimeter anticlockwise spiralling into the centre and repeating the numbers 38429

QUOTE UNCODE
Real obstacles don't take you in circles. They can be overcome. Invented ones are like a maze.

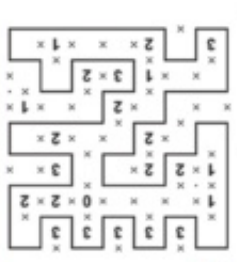
SUDOKU

6	3	8	2	5	1	9	4	7
5	1	9	8	4	7	3	2	6
4	2	7	3	6	9	1	5	8
8	9	2	6	1	5	7	3	4
7	6	5	9	3	4	8	1	2
1	4	3	7	2	8	5	6	9
2	7	6	5	9	3	4	8	1
3	8	1	4	7	2	6	9	5
9	5	4	1	8	6	2	7	3

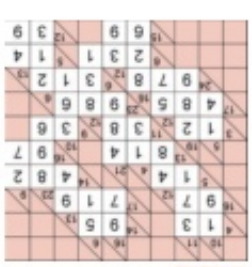
ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, In, Sin, Sine, Veins, Invest, Natives.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 7 - 2 - 9 = 4
Medium
4 + 6 + 8 x 1 = 18
Hard
5 - 5 + 4 x 4 = 16

LOOP



KAKURO



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Research shows ways to keep EVs off the grid

According to some projections, the widespread use of electric vehicles may need the construction of costly new power facilities to satisfy nighttime peak demands.

According to new research, strategically locating EV charging stations and implementing mechanisms to commence charging at later time might reduce or eliminate the need for new power plants.

National and global climate change initiatives include boosting car electrification and the share of power generated from renewable sources. Yet, some forecasts indicate that these developments may need the construction of costly new power plants to satisfy peak loads in the evening when automobiles are plugged in after work. Moreover, solar farm overproduction throughout the day might squander important electricity generation capacity.

In a new study, MIT researchers have found that it's possible to mitigate or eliminate both these problems without the need for advanced technological systems of connected devices and real-time communications, which could add to costs and energy consumption. Instead, encouraging the placing of charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) in strategic ways, rather than letting them spring up anywhere, and setting up systems to initiate car charging at delayed times could potentially make all the difference.

The study, which will be published in the journal Cell Reports Physical Science, is by Zachary Needell PhD '22, postdoc Wei Wei, and Professor Jessika Trancik of MIT's Institute for Data, Systems and Society.

In their analysis, the researchers used data collected in two sample cities: New York and Dallas.

The findings, Trancik says, "round out the picture on the question of where to strategically locate chargers to support EV adoption and also support the power grid."

Better availability of charging stations at workplaces, for example, could help to soak up peak power being produced at midday from solar power installations, which might otherwise go to waste because it is not economical to build enough battery or other storage capacity to save all of it for later in the day.

Thus, workplace chargers can provide a double benefit, helping to reduce the evening peak load from EV charging and also making use of solar electricity output.

These effects on the electric power system are considerable, especially if the system must meet charging demands for a fully electrified personal vehicle fleet alongside the peaks in other demand for electricity, for example on the hottest days of the year. If unmitigated, the evening peaks in EV charging demand could require installing upwards of 20 per cent more power-generation capacity, the researchers say.

"Slow workplace charging can be preferable than faster charging technologies for enabling a higher utilisation of midday solar resources," Wei says.

Meanwhile, with delayed home charging, each EV charger could be accompanied by a simple app to estimate the time to begin its charging cycle so that it charges just before it is needed the next day.

Unlike other proposals that require centralized control of the charging cycle, such a system needs no inter-device communication of information and can be preprogrammed -- and can accomplish a major shift in the demand on the grid caused by increasing EV penetration. The reason it works so well, Trancik says, is because of the natural variability in driving behaviours across individuals in a population.

By "home charging," the researchers aren't only referring to charging equipment in individual garages or parking areas. They say it's essential to make charging stations available in on-street parking locations and in apartment building parking areas as well.

Trancik says the findings highlight the value of combining the two measures -- workplace charging and delayed home charging -- to reduce peak electricity demand, store solar energy, and conveniently meet drivers' charging needs on all days.

As the team showed in earlier research, home charging can be a particularly effective component of a strategic package of charging locations; workplace charging, they have found, is not a good substitute for home charging for meeting drivers' needs on all days.

Delayed home charging could make a surprising amount of difference, the team found. "It's basically incentivizing people to begin charging later. This can be something that is preprogrammed into your chargers. You incentivize people to delay the onset of charging by a bit so that not everyone is charging at the same time, and that smooths out the peak." **ANI**

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